Massachusetts Department of Transportation

Secretary Stephanie Pollack's Report to the MassDOT Board and FMCB

Monday, March 18, 2019

MassDOT Welcomes New Director

- Vanessa Otero currently holds the position of Chief Operating Officer at Partners for Community in Springfield, MA
- She has led strategic planning, grant writing, program evaluation, and risk management efforts

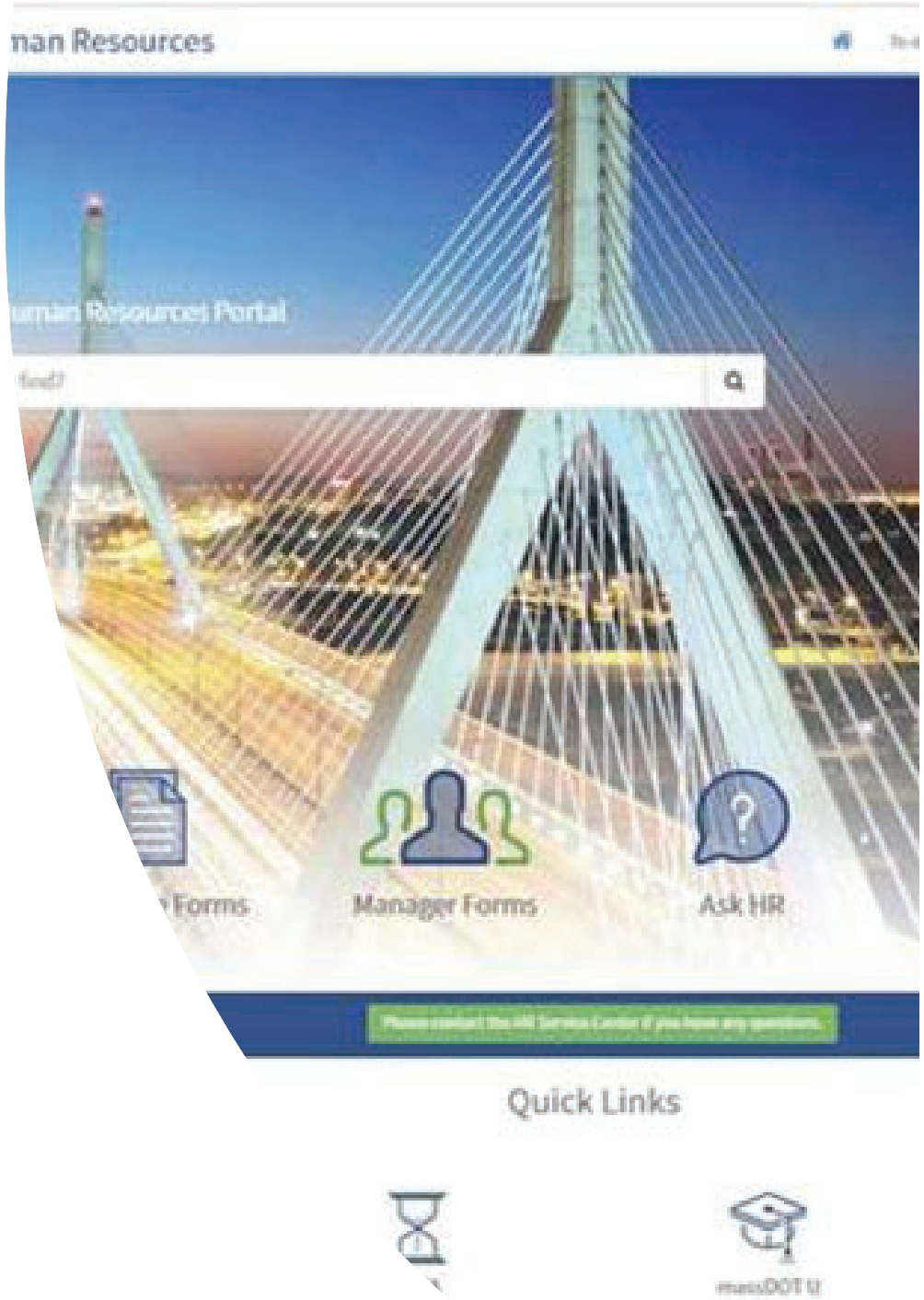
Human Resources Modernization

On February 25, MassDOT launched a new Human Resources Portal open to employees and managers

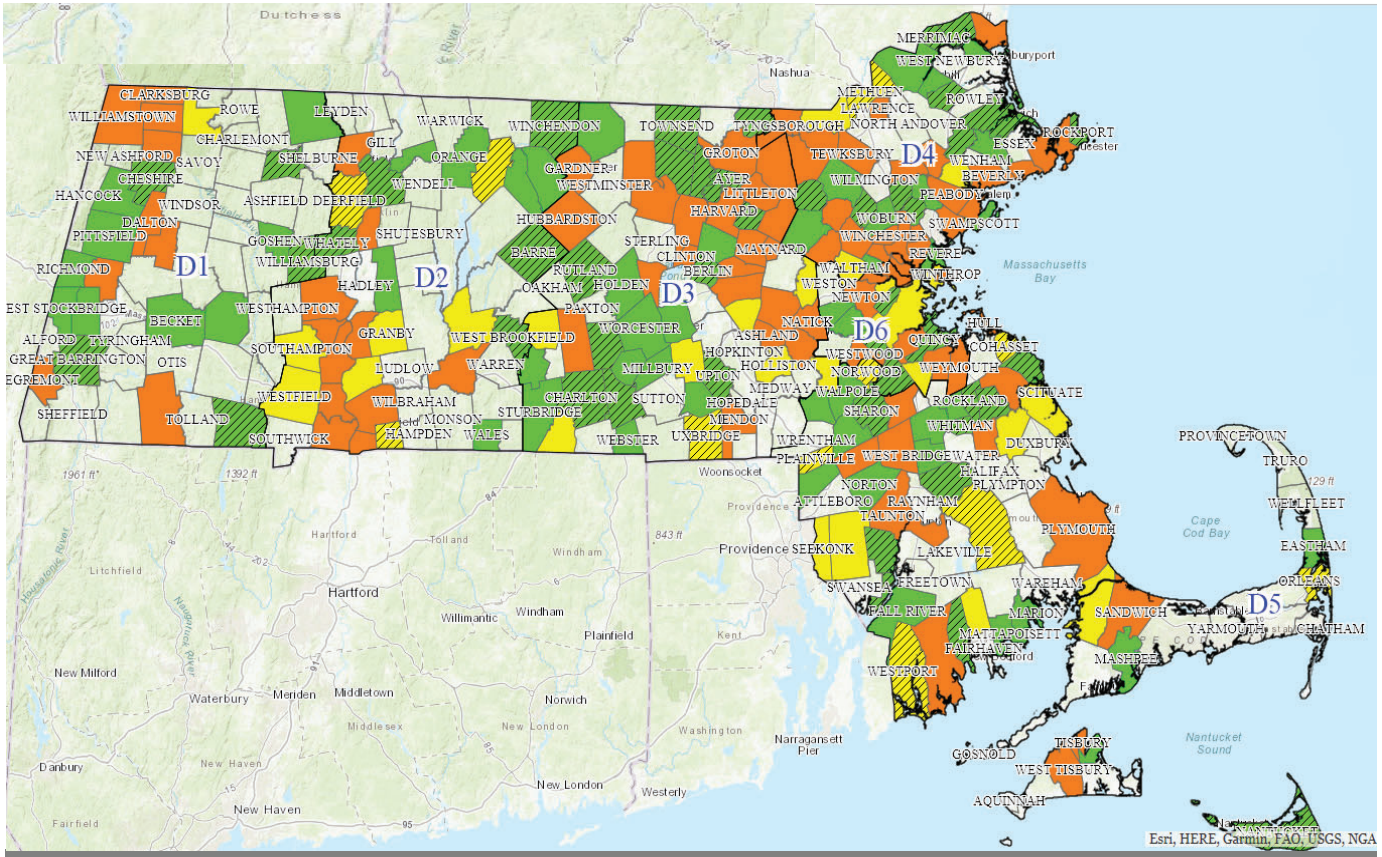
- Create New HR Requests
- Check on the Status of your Existing HR Requests
- Easily Find HR Knowledge Documentation/Forms

Improvements include:

- One Stop Shop for requesting HR Services
- Electronic Approval Process
- Full Transparency to HR Requests and Cases
- Easy access to HR Forms…and more



A Complete Street is simply a street that is safe and feels safe for everyone, no matter their age or physical ability and regardless of whether they are in a car, getting on or off of a bus or train, using a wheelchair or walking or bicycling.



Municipal Status	Count
Registered	225
Letter of Intent (LOI)	11
Approved Policies	190
Approved Prioritization Plan	136
Approved Projects	
2019	25
2018	45
2017	26

Complete Streets Program Update

Baker-Polito Administration
Complete Streets Funding Program

- February 26, Quincy: 11 communities received grants
- Since February 2016, $33 million total awarded municipalities

massDOT Transportation Innovation CONFERENCE

April 9-10, 2019
DCU Center in Worcester
Details at:
umasstransportationcenter.org

massDOT Transportation Innovation CONFERENCE

Session topics include

- connected and autonomous vehicles,
- environmental aspects of transportation,
- mobility,
- materials,
- multi-modal transportation,
- bridges and pavements,
- safety,
- technology,
- interactive design,
- asset management,
- wayfinding,
- construction

Governor Baker's Proposed Road Safety Legislation: event March 7th

Chapter 90 - Joint Committee Hearing

Lower Mystic Working Group Report

Thursday, March 14, Working Group report released

- Not the end of collaborative work - 11 agencies will continue to advance solutions to regional transportation challenges resulting from economic development in Everett, Somerville, Cambridge and Boston
- Report findings are consistent with Focus40 and Commission on the Future of Transportation in the Commonwealth findings – the transportation system needs to move more people in fewer vehicles

Berkshire Flyer Subcommittee Report: Pilot Seasonal Rail Service between NYC and Pittsfield

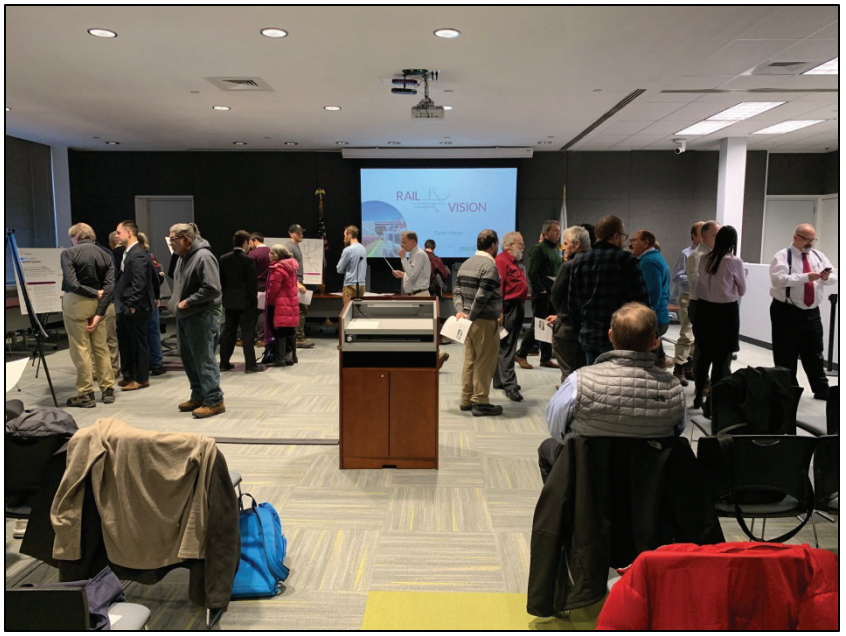
- Subcommittee report filed w/ MA Legislature on March 1st
- Recommendation to begin pilot service in 2020.
- Next steps: identify financing, find a local sponsor, then have MassDOT finalize a contract with Amtrak.

U.S. Army Corps: Bourne Bridge Maintenance Begins Late March

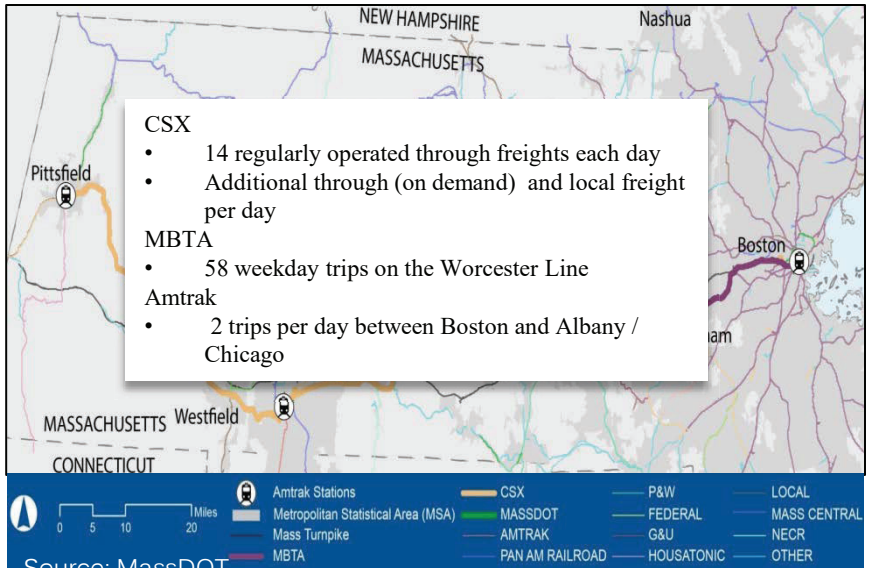
- Bourne Bridge is owned & maintained by U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
- Weather permitting, 24/7 deck repairs begin in late March
- Only one lane of travel open in each direction until Memorial Day

Rail Vision Open House

- On March 5, MassDOT hosted an open house to present and discuss Rail Vision Study
- MassDOT staff answered questions about the 7 Commuter Rail Alternatives



- The 7 alternatives will be subject to further analysis regarding ridership, cost, parking, etc. throughout the spring

East-West Passenger Rail Study

- First public meeting was held March 12 in Springfield
- Study highlights the challenge of combining faster travel time and multiple stops in smaller communities